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**(54) SORTING-OUT SYSTEM
FOR PLURAL RECORD
CLASSES**

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To shorten the sorting-out time by sorting out record groups at plural record classes with different classification keys in a lump without converting the type of data on keys.

CONSTITUTION: A replacement selection part 2b structures a tournament tree in an internal memory element, compares classification keys in each node of the tree with the aid of a key comparison mechanism 2f, and decides a winner and a loser. A record class comparison means 1a included in the key comparison mechanism compares the record class IDs of two records in the node. If the IDs are different, the smaller record class ID is decided to be a winner and the compared result is returned. When the record IDs are the same, a record class decision means 1b decides record classes, branches them into a record class key comparison means 1c at a corresponding class, and compares classification keys at each class. When the compared result is returned, a winner and a loser in each node can be decided.

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